

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 7 and 14 currently being cancelled.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15-17, 19 and 21-27 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending and canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 2-6, 8-13 and 15-27 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In the Office Action, claims 2, 4, 5 and 8-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,882,348 to Hirono in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,734,873 to Herf; and claims 3, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirono in view of Herf and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,373 to Delorme. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Each of the presently pending independent claims has been amended to include the features of either dependent claim 7 or dependent claim 14, now canceled, in which there is provided interaction connection means for regarding, as persons to interact with, the user ID of other users corresponding to given specified other users position marks when the user specifies the given other users position marks and starts an interacting function program to provide connection.

The Office Action asserts that the above features are described in column 9, lines 30-45 of Hirono, but Applicant respectfully disagrees. Namely, Hirono merely describes displaying a schematic diagram showing store information, a map image and advertisement images. In more detail, Hirono discloses only the displaying of store information, and Hirono does not teach or suggest “interaction connection means for regarding, as persons to interact

with, the user ID of other users corresponding to given specified other users position marks when the user specifies the given other users position marks and starts an interacting function program to provide connection", as recited (in one way or another, depending upon whether the claim is a system claim, a method claim, or a recording medium claim) in each of the presently pending independent claims.

According to the above features that have been added to each of the presently pending independent claims, a user is allowed to connect to an interact with other users displayed on a three-dimensional stereoscopic representation. See, in particular, page 50, lines 3-19 of the specification.

Therefore, since the features of claims 7 and 14 (that have been added in one way of another to each of the presently pending independent claims) are not taught or suggested by Hirono or by any of the other cited art of record, and since neither Herf nor Hirono rectifies these deficiencies of Hirono, the presently pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the final Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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